

APPENDIX A

17. (Amended) Apparatus comprising:

a sterilization tunnel for surrounding a plurality of containers with pressurized gas;

a sterilant supply source to supply sterilant into the sterilization tunnel;

a plurality of zones having varying gas flow within the sterilization tunnel;

a plurality of sterilant concentration zones within the sterilization tunnel;

at least one gas supply source to supply the pressurized gas into the sterilization tunnel; and

at least one gas exit to allow the pressurized gas to escape the sterilization tunnel.

24. [25.] (Amended) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein sterile air exits the first gas flow zone at a rate of about 1500 cfm.